



## US local action on heat and health: Are we prepared for climate change?

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### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVES:** Global climate change is increasing the frequency of heat waves, hot weather, and temperature variability, which contribute to mortality and illness. Baseline information on local efforts to reduce heat vulnerability, including public advisories; minimizing greenhouse gas emissions; and mitigating urban heat islands, is lacking. **METHODS:** We designed a survey about local government programs to prevent health problems and reduce heat exposure during heatwaves and administered it to 285 US communities. **RESULTS:** Of 70 respondents, 26 indicated that excessive heat events are a significant issue for the local government; 30 had established preventive programs. Local government leadership and public health impacts of heat were cited most frequently as extremely important determinants of preventive programs, followed by implementation costs, economic impacts of hot weather, and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation. Cool paving materials and vegetated roofs were common heat mitigation strategies. Fact sheets and case studies were desired guidance for protecting communities during hot weather. **CONCLUSIONS:** New partnerships and financial resources are needed to support more widespread local action to prevent adverse health consequences of climate change and promote environmental sustainability.

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### Resource Description

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

None or Unspecified, Urban

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

United States

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Other Health Impact

**Other Health Impact:** heat related illness

## **Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

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## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

**Other Vulnerable Population:** people with chronic disease, pre-existing illness

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article

## **Resilience:**

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified